



FLORIDA SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS

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May 13, 2020

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2020 - 2021

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Governor Ron DeSantis
Plaza Level 05, The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: Follow up on April 7, 2020 FSE Requests

Dear Governor DeSantis,

On April 7, 2020, the Florida Supervisors of Elections (FSE) requested executive action to address our challenges related to COVID-19. As the new FSE president, I write to ask that you act immediately to address what our state's 67 elections experts have recommended. We are confident we can overcome the challenges of the current health crisis with executive action that gives us more flexibility around in-person voting and Vote By Mail, and secures much-needed CARES Act funding to protect our voters.

Our requests recognize that counties differ significantly in size and need, and require flexibility to structure voting in the best possible way for their electorate. At the same time, all 67 counties should have, at a minimum, the allowances *currently provided* to Bay and Gulf Counties under your Executive Order 19-262. The ability to designate additional Early Voting sites and use those sites through Election Day resolves a critical issue for many counties – a shortage of Election Day polling locations and poll workers.

I also want to express my concern that Florida is lagging behind nearly every other state in securing CARES Act funding for elections. While we wait, the goods and services we need are becoming scarce. The Department of State has surveyed all Supervisors of Elections to find out the most pressing needs for funding related to COVID-19. We must start ordering supplies, recruiting and training poll workers, and securing voting locations now.

Your Executive Order 20-114 (issued May 8) extended the state of emergency for another 60 days because "the impact of COVID-19 poses a continuing threat to the health, safety and welfare of the State of Florida and its residents." Voting will be *underway* during this state of emergency, with ballots mailed to military and overseas voters by July 4th.

Our request for executive action cannot wait any longer. I appreciate your attention to this matter, and welcome further conversation should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Craig Latimer
President, Florida Supervisors of Elections

cc: Secretary of State Laurel Lee